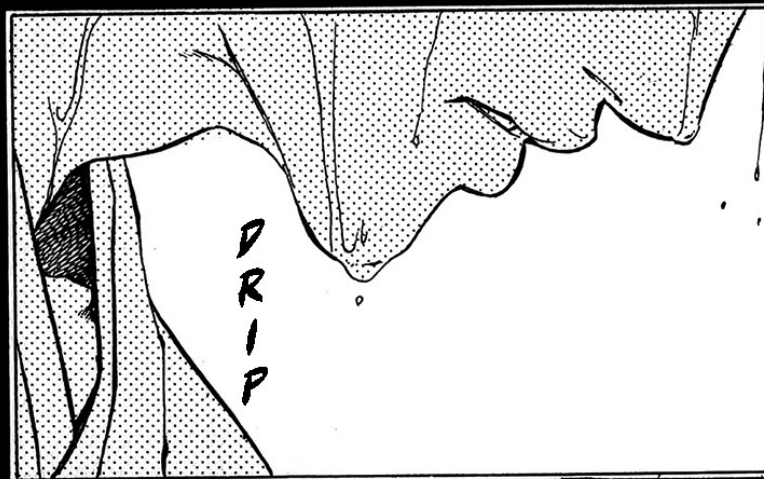
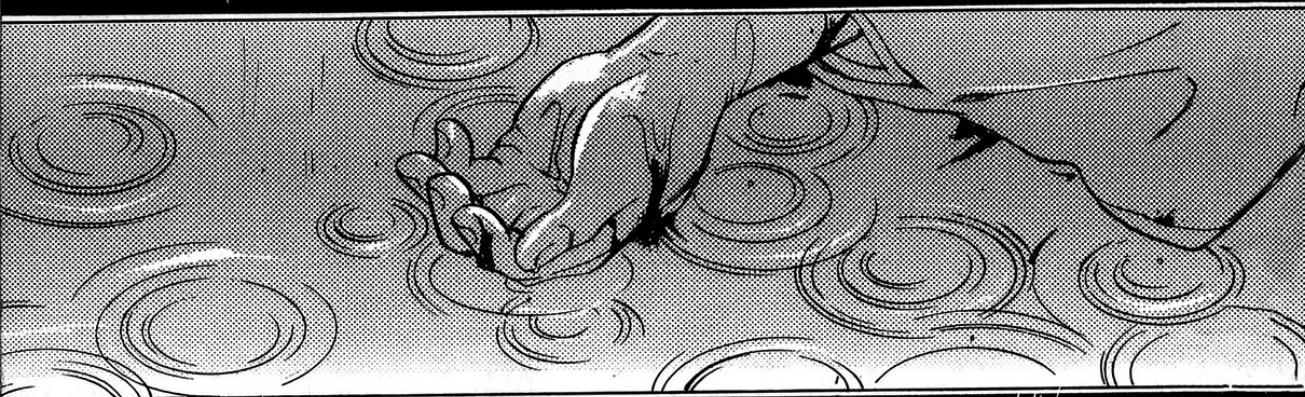


# Between the Clouds

Kujo Tomoyodo

\*COUNT OF HEAVY RAIN\*



I WHY?

WHY DID  
THIS  
HAVE TO  
HAPPEN



All for the  
sake of  
protecting  
those we  
love

|

# 雲の 切れ間に

Between the Clouds

Kujo Tomoyodo

12TH MONTH  
BUNKYO 3, OSAKA











YOU GUYS  
HAVE NEVER  
CUT  
ANYONE,  
HAVE YOU?

WIELD  
YOUR  
SWORD

SAMURAI  
-SAN

TRY TO CUT  
ME DOWN IF  
YOU CAN  
STRIKE ME

ADULTS  
SHOULD BE  
THE ONES  
RESPONSIBLE  
FOR  
CHILDREN'S  
MISTAKES,  
RIGHT?

SUSUMU  
-HAN\*

\*A KANSAI DIALECT  
VERSION OF SAN

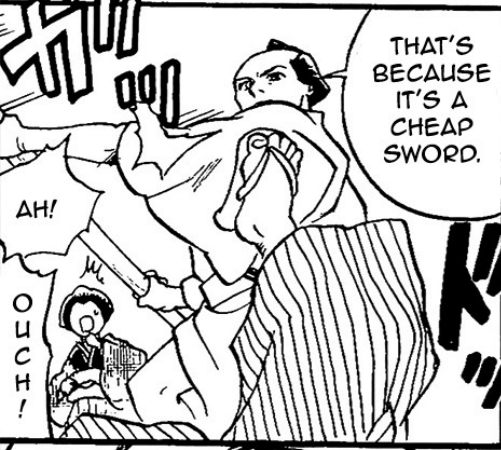
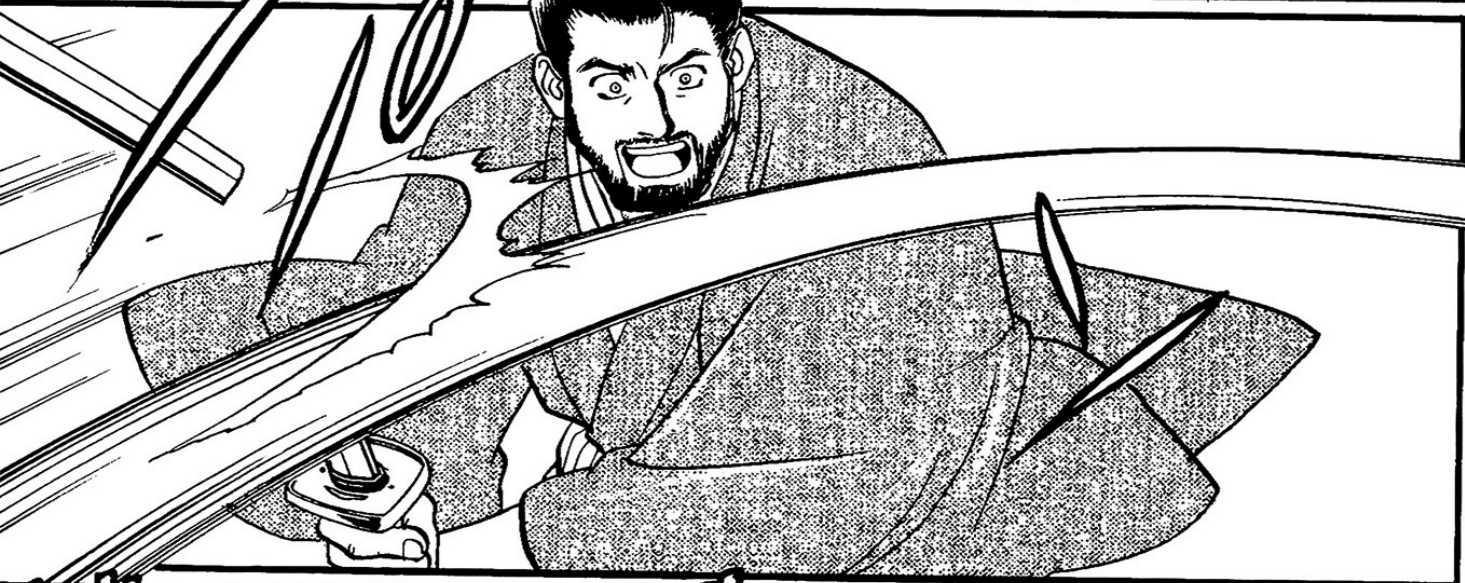
HOW DARE  
YOU TAUNT  
US,  
COMMONER?

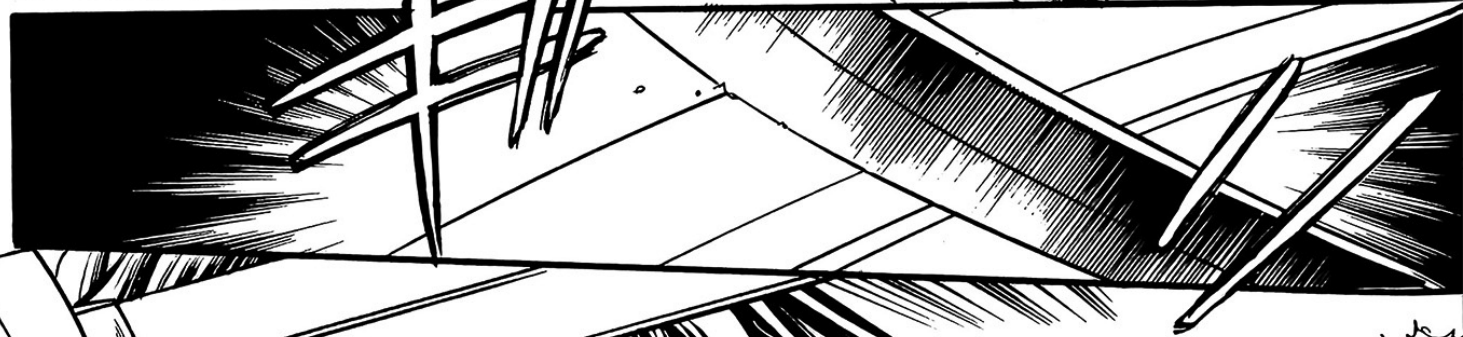
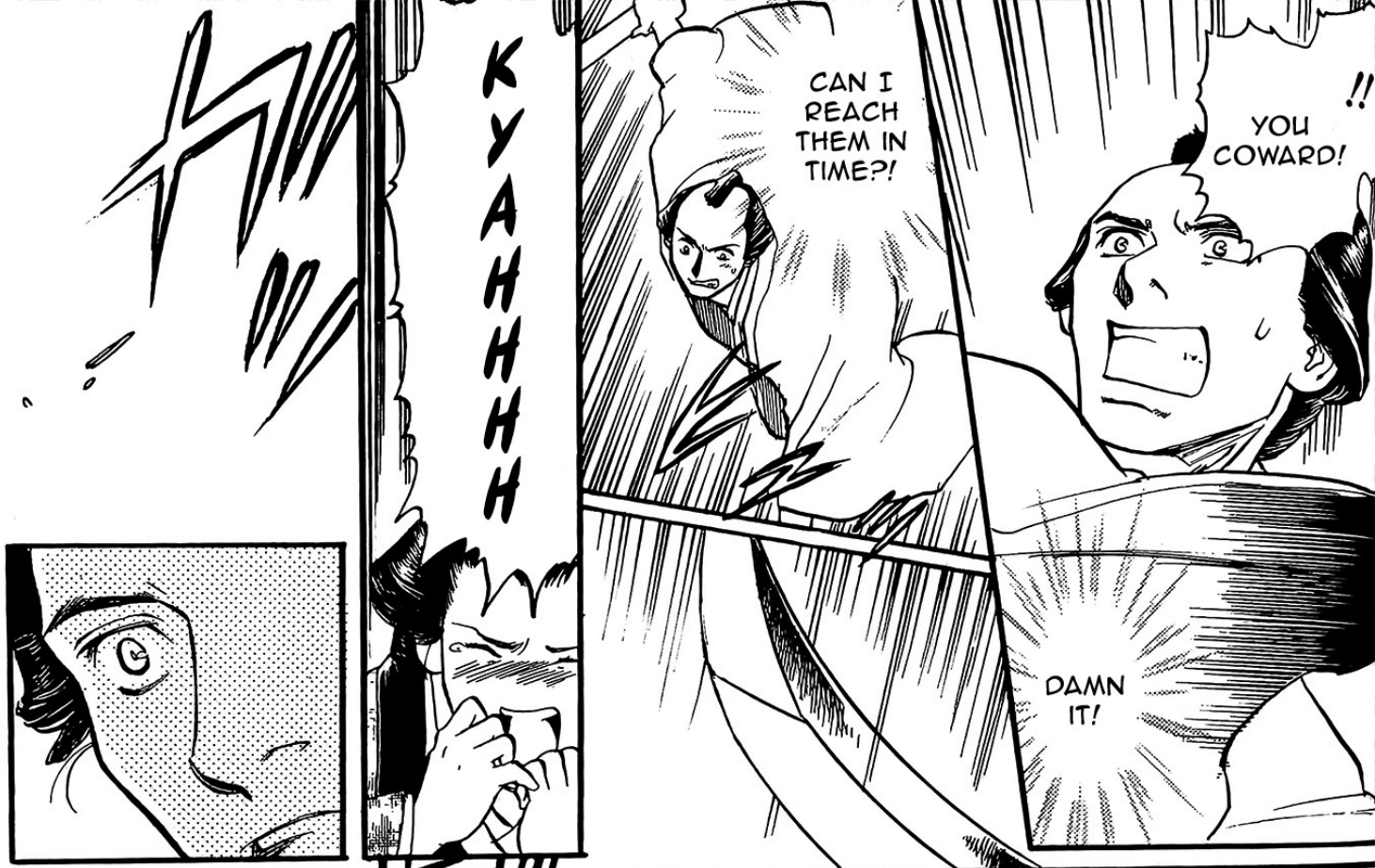
YEAH

ALL AT  
ONCE!  
LET'S CUT  
HIM  
DOWN!

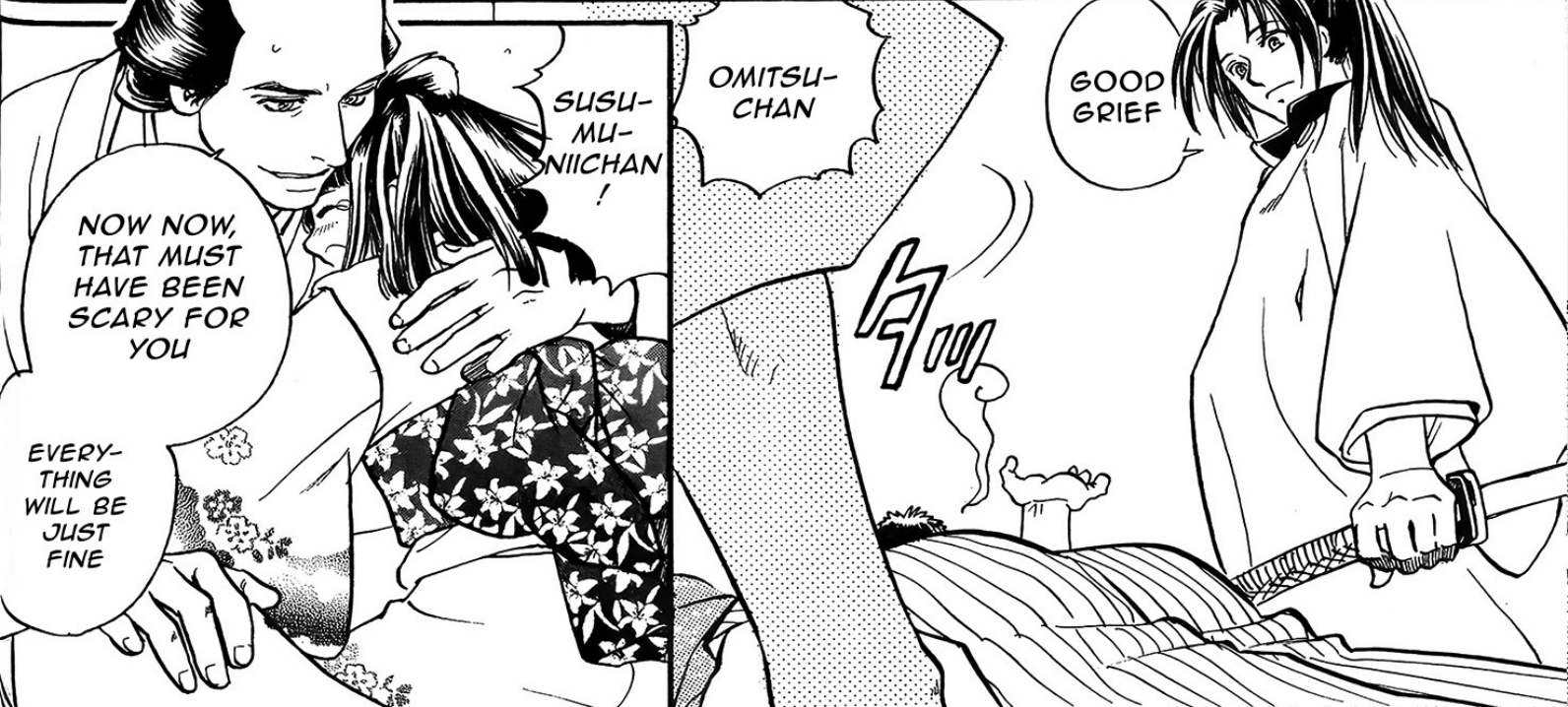
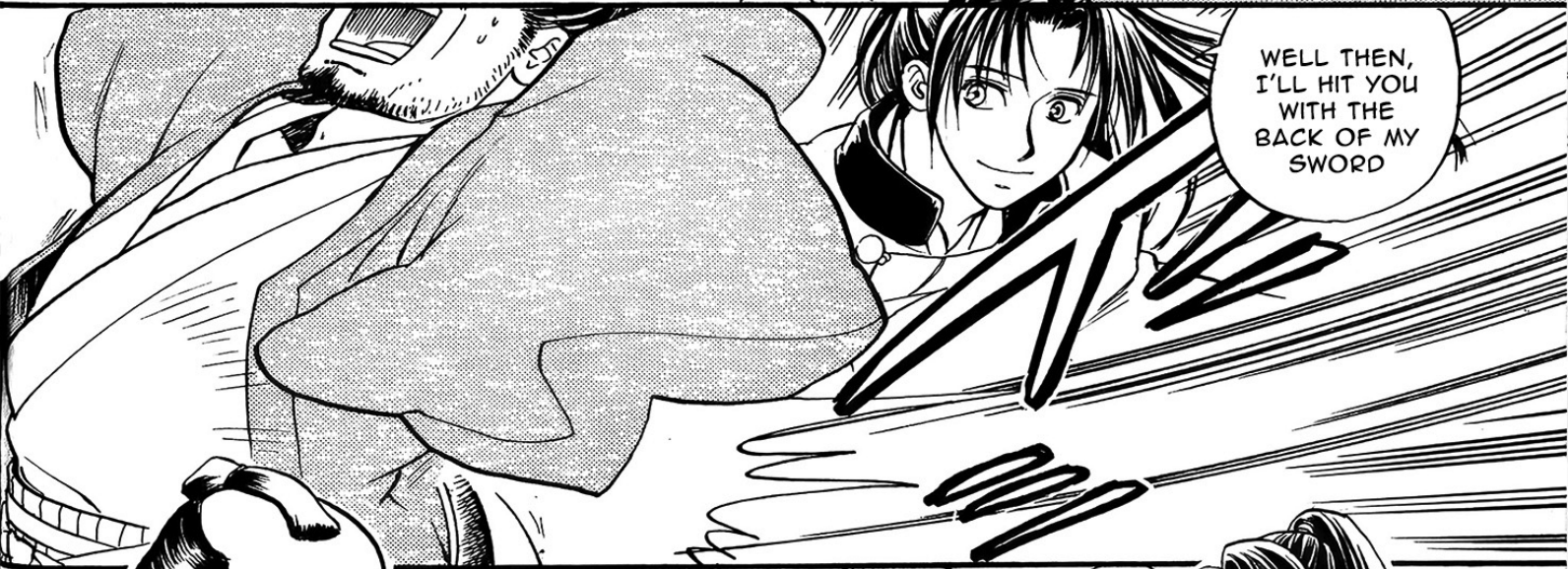
LET'S  
DO  
THIS



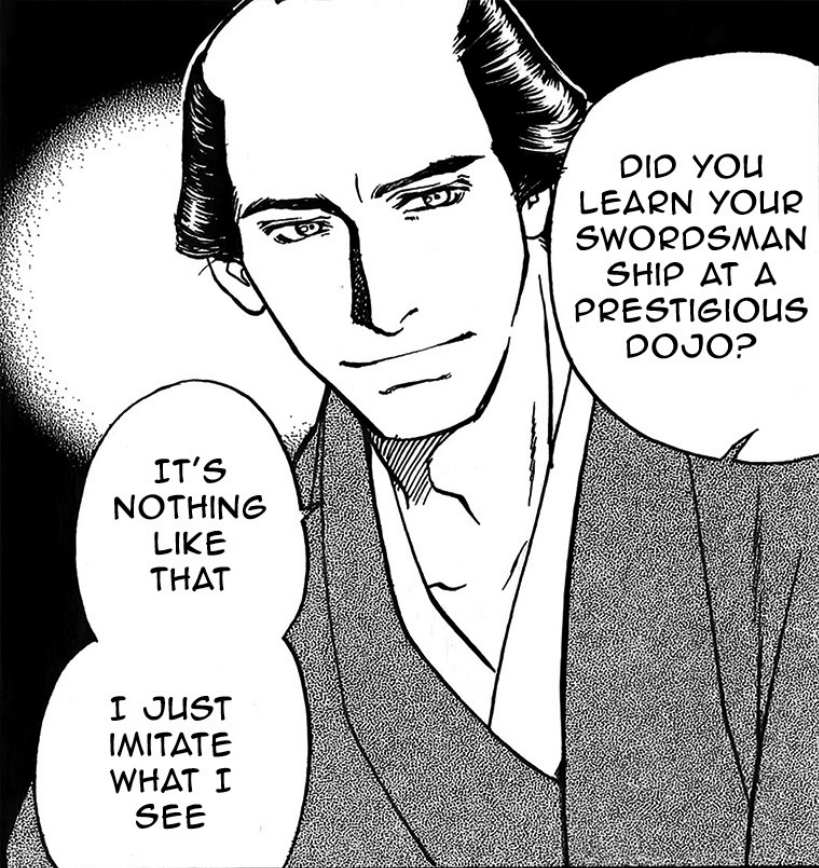












DID YOU  
LEARN YOUR  
SWORDSMAN  
SHIP AT A  
PRESTIGIOUS  
DOJO?

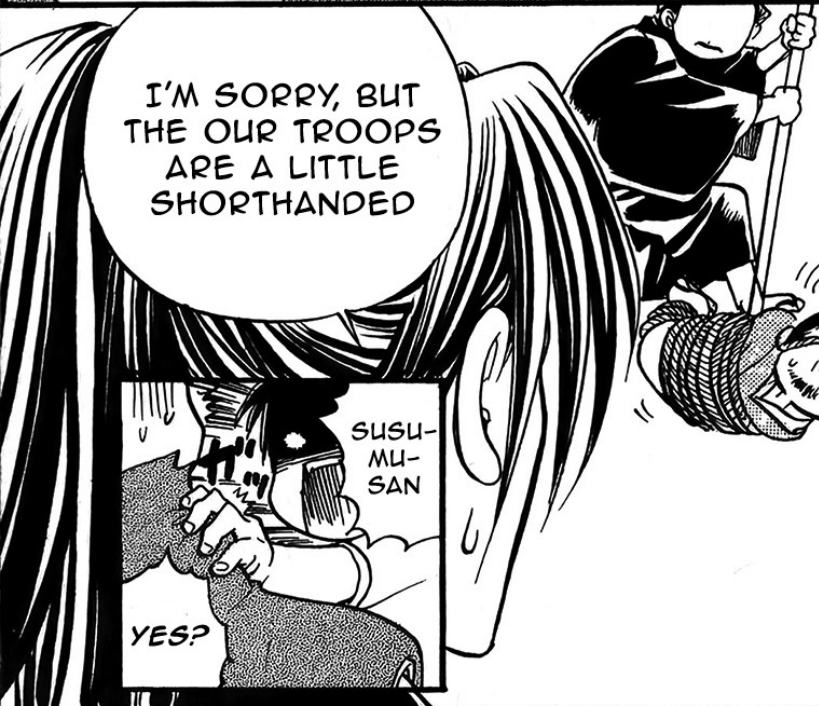
IT'S  
NOTHING  
LIKE  
THAT

I JUST  
IMITATE  
WHAT I  
SEE

NO, NO, IF IT  
WEREN'T FOR  
YOUR HELP  
THEY WOULD  
HAVE CUT US  
DOWN.

NICE  
WORK!  
YOU HAVE  
A GOOD  
ARM

IT  
DIDN'T  
LOOK  
THAT  
WAY TO  
ME



I'M SORRY, BUT  
THE OUR TROOPS  
ARE A LITTLE  
SHORTHANDED

PEOPLE LIKE  
THEM HAVE  
NOTHING  
KEEPING THEM  
IN CHECK

THE SONNO  
JOU  
MOVEMENT  
IS POPULAR  
THESE DAYS



SUSU-  
MU-  
SAN

YES?

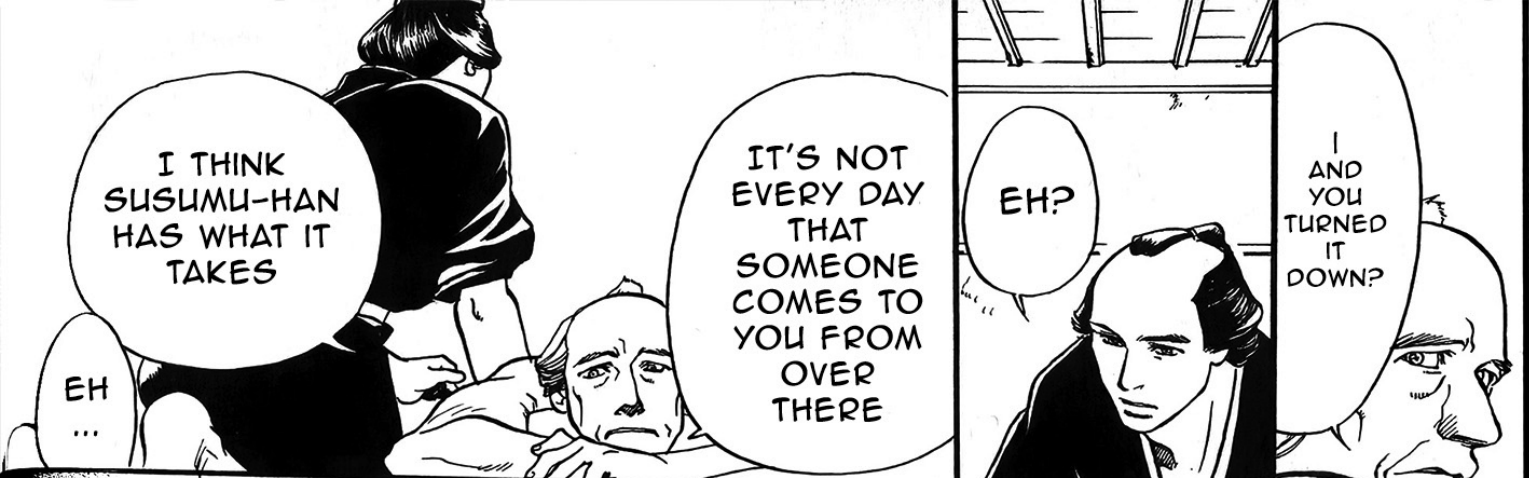


HUH  
?!

YOU CAN  
DO IT!



WHY DON'T  
YOU JOIN US  
IN  
PROTECTING  
KYOTO AND  
OSAKA?



I THINK  
SUSUMU-HAN  
HAS WHAT IT  
TAKES

EH  
...

IT'S NOT  
EVERY DAY  
THAT  
SOMEONE  
COMES TO  
YOU FROM  
OVER  
THERE

EH?

I  
AND  
YOU  
TURNED  
IT  
DOWN?



I'M THE  
SHIN-  
SEN-  
GUMI  
FIRST  
SQUAD  
CAPTAIN

SO  
OK  
UI  
JT  
IA

IF IT'S  
BECAUSE  
YOU'RE  
WORRIED, I  
DON'T THINK  
YOU HAVE TO

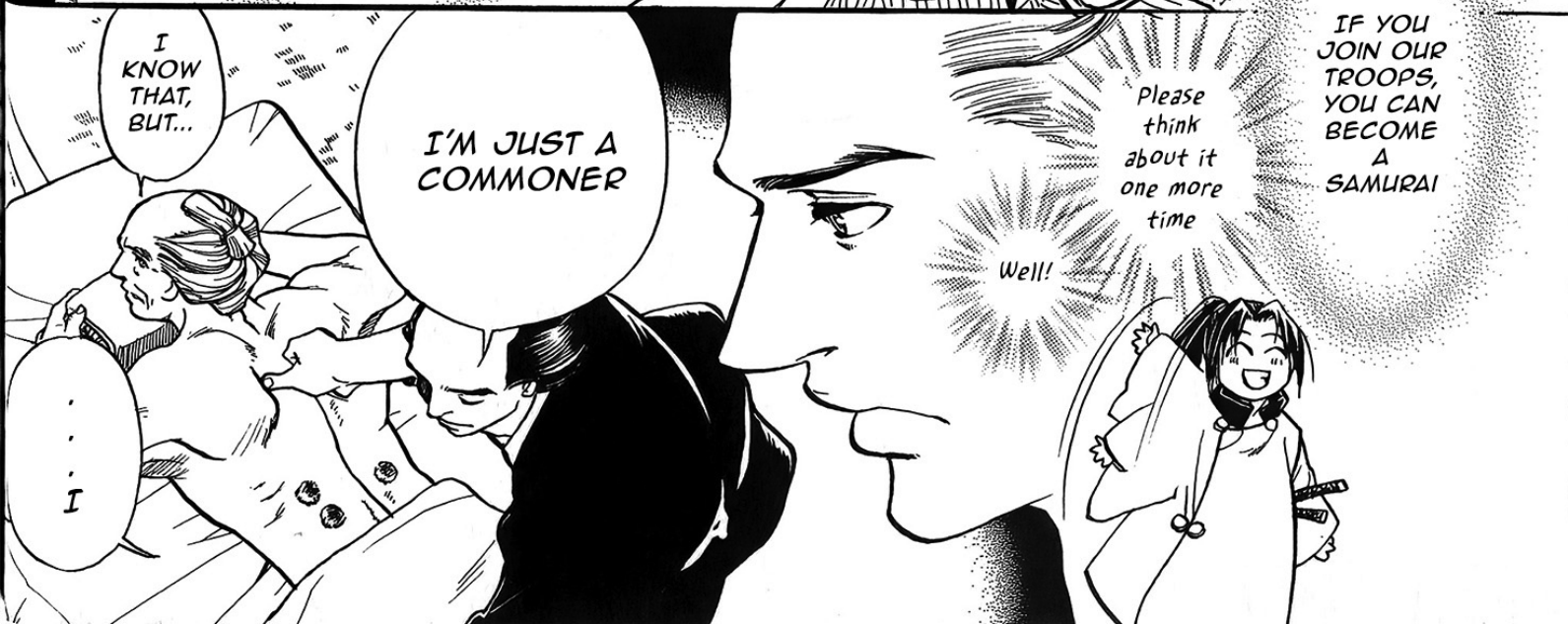
THE  
SHIN-  
SEN-  
GUMI  
?

YES

THE TROOPS  
UNDER THE  
COMMAND OF THE  
PROTECTOR OF  
KYOTO,  
MATSUDAIRA  
KATAMORI

CARRYING  
OUT THEIR  
DUTY TO  
MAINTAIN  
ORDER IN  
KYOTO AND  
OSAKA

CRACKING  
DOWN ON  
THE  
UNREST  
CAUSED BY  
RONIN WHO  
SUPPORT  
SONNO  
JOU!



I  
KNOW  
THAT,  
BUT...

I'M JUST A  
COMMONER

please  
think  
about it  
one more  
time

IF YOU  
JOIN OUR  
TROOPS,  
YOU CAN  
BECOME  
A  
SAMURAI

Well!

OH,  
YOU'RE  
BACK,  
SOUJI

RES  
MID  
BE  
UN  
CE

I DON'T  
WANT TO  
HOLD A  
SWORD IN  
THIS HAND  
AGAIN

BUT THE  
SITUATION IS  
VERY  
UNSTABLE

I HAVE BEEN  
RECRUITING IN  
ALL OF THE  
REPUTABLE  
DOJOS

HOW  
WAS  
OSAKA?

SHUT UP.  
KYOTO IS  
COLD.

YOU'RE SO  
SLOPPY.  
YOU'LL SET  
A BAD  
EXAMPLE TO  
OUR MEN

IF SOMEONE  
MEETS ALL THE  
QUALIFICATIONS,  
HE COULD  
BECOME A  
MEMBER, RIGHT?

SO  
THERE'S  
SOMETHING  
I WANT TO  
ASK YOU

I'LL LOOK  
INTO THAT

ARE YOU  
SURE HE  
COULD BE  
TRUSTED?

HURRY UP  
AND  
CLOSE  
THE DOOR  
BEFORE IT  
GETS  
COLDER



HMM,  
I SEE

I SAW  
HIM  
FIGHT  
WITH A  
STAFF

A  
RONIN  
?

I  
WONDER  
WHO  
CAUGHT  
SOUJI'S  
EYE

FROM HIS  
HALF-SOLED  
SANDALS\*, I'M  
SURE HE'S HAD  
REAL-WORLD  
TRAINING IN  
SWORDSMANSHIP  
TOO

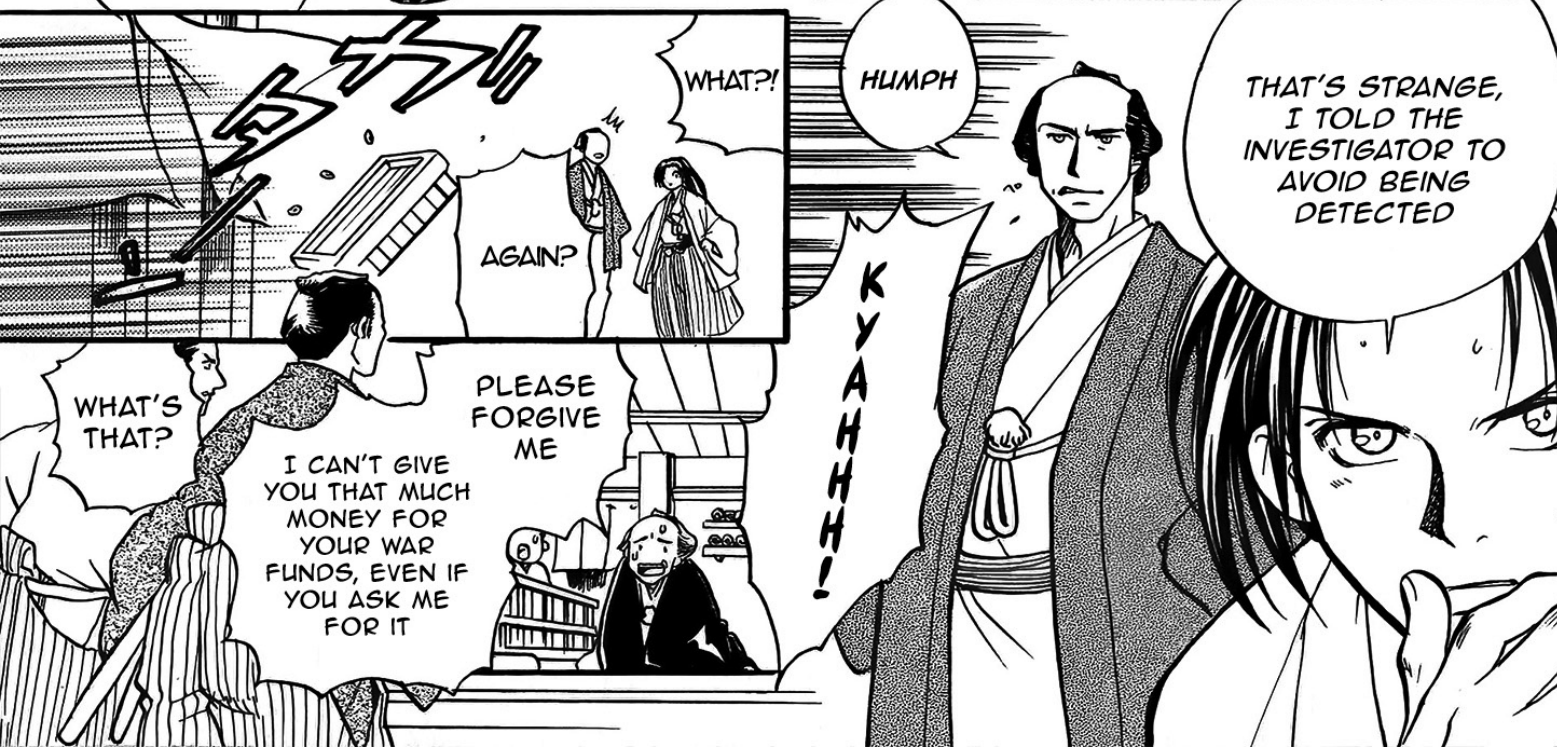
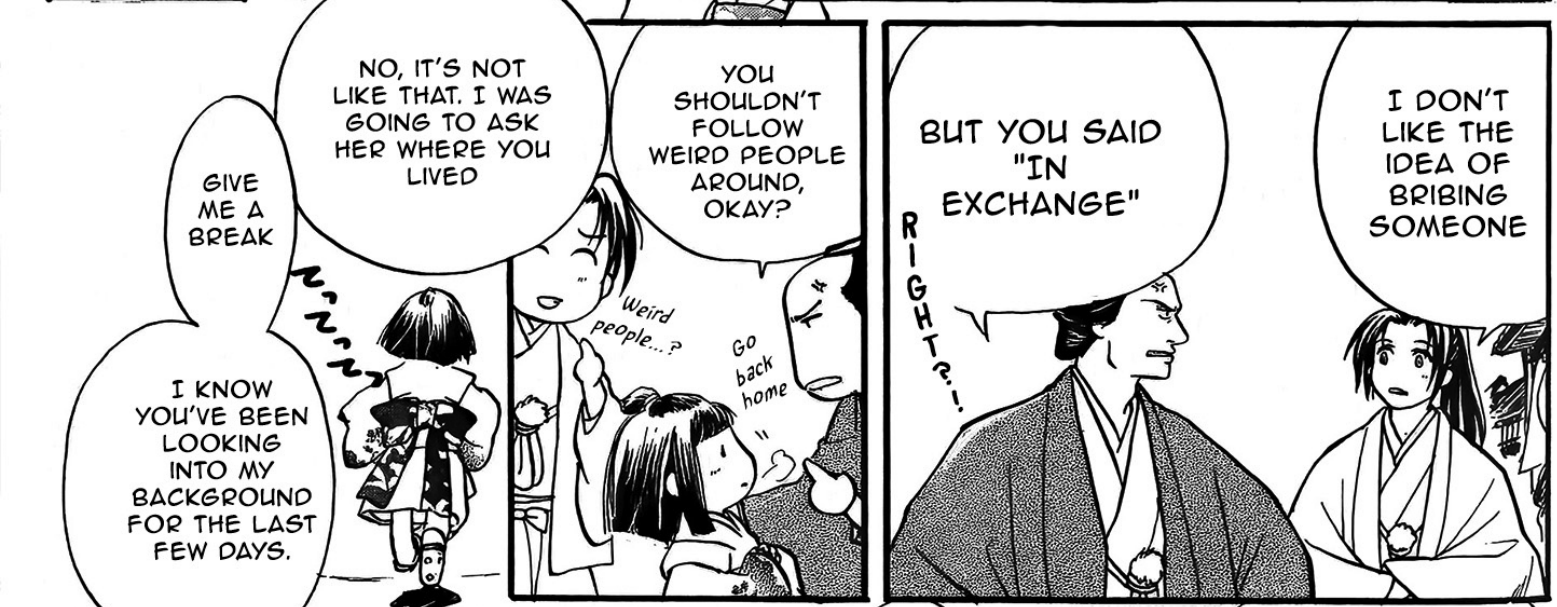
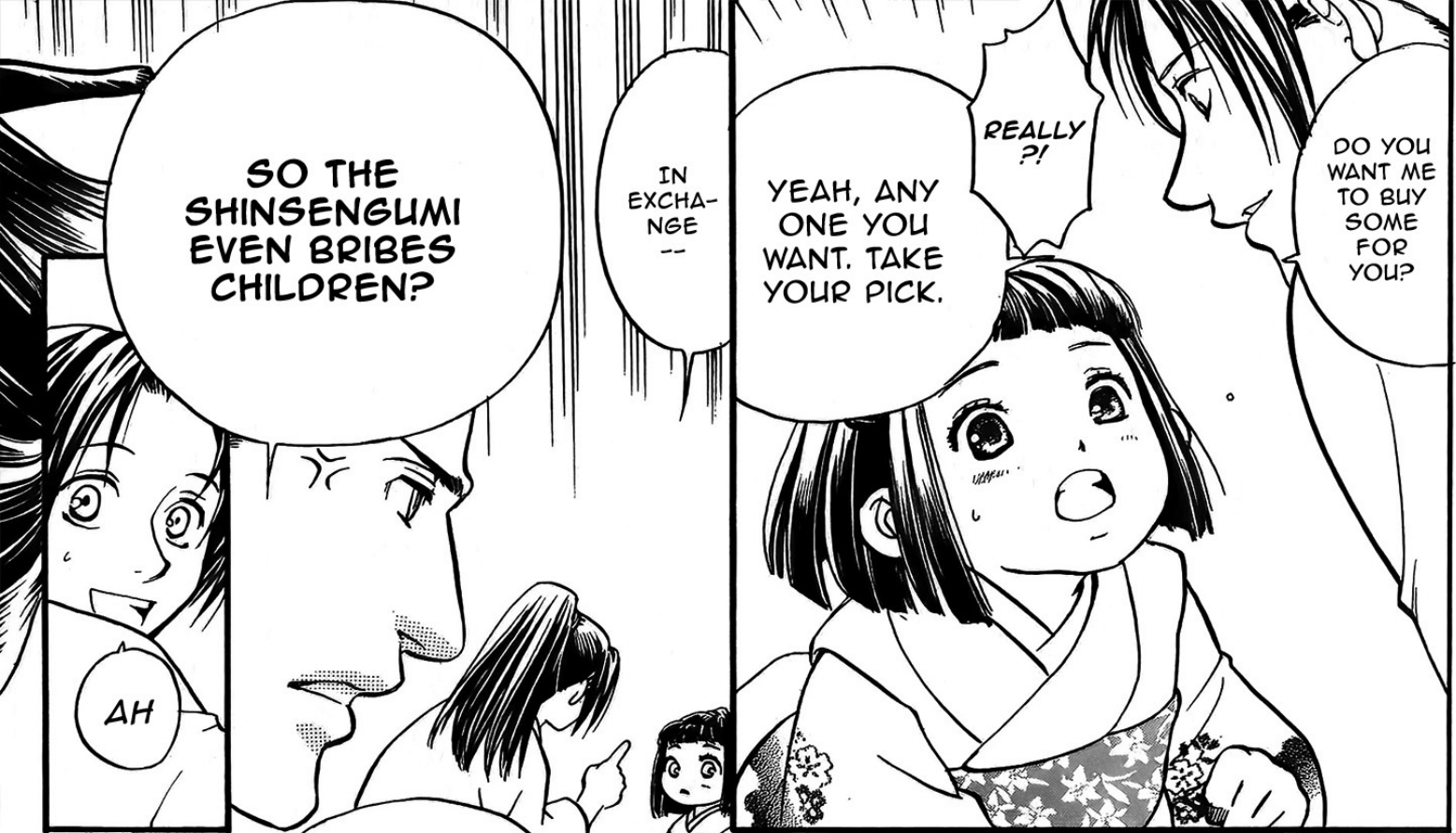
\* A TYPE OF STRAW SANDALS  
WORN BY WARRIORS

NO, JUST A  
COMMONER,  
BUT HE'S  
SKILLED

THEY HAVE  
A STRONG  
GAZE

THE EYES  
OF A  
SAMURAI

YOU WANT  
CANDY,  
OMITSU-  
CHAN?





IT'S UNFORGIVABLE!!

OUTLAW RONIN COMMITTING EXTORTION

THE ONLY THING THAT MATTERS IS HOW MUCH MONEY YOU CAN MAKE FOR YOUR COUNTRY

HUH?

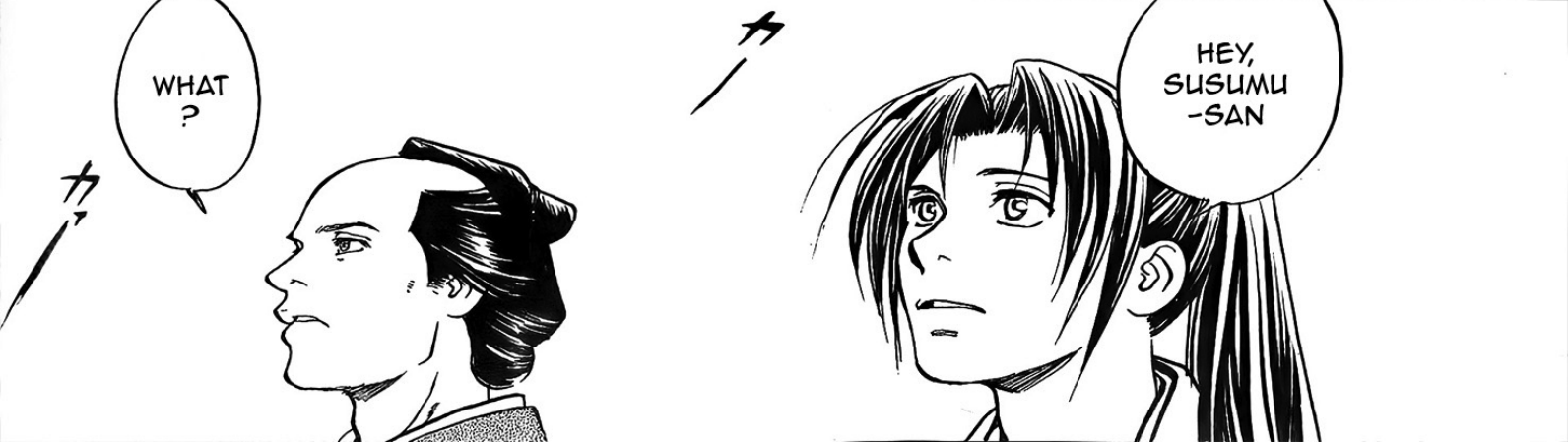
WHAT?!

E E K



WHAT?

HEY, SUSUMU-SAN





"YAMAZAKI  
SUSUMU,

SON OF  
ACUPUNC-  
TURIST  
HAYASHI  
GOROZA-  
EMON

NOT  
INTERESTED

I THINK  
YOU'RE  
DEFINITELY  
SUITED FOR  
THE  
SHINSENGUMI

NOW YOU'RE  
HELPING  
YOUR  
FAMILY'S  
ACUPUNCTURE  
BUSINESS"

YOU BECAME A  
JUNIOR  
OFFICIAL\*, BUT  
QUIT THREE  
YEARS AGO

\*DOSHIN: A  
LOW-RANKING OFFICIAL

TRAINED IN  
BOTH KYOSHIN  
MEICHI-RYU  
KENJUTSU AND  
KATORI-RYU  
BOJUTSU\*

BORN  
IN  
OSAKA

\* FIGHTING WITH A STAFF

BORN IN EDO,  
STUDIED AT  
KONDO'S  
TENNEN  
RISHIN-RYU  
DOJO

WOULD  
FIGHTING  
WITH A  
STAFF  
STILL BE  
TROUBLE  
-SOME?

I HEARD THAT  
YOU HAD A  
GOOD  
REPUTATION  
WHEN YOU  
WERE AN  
OFFICIAL

WHY  
DID YOU  
QUIT?


TCH

THE DAY BEFORE  
YESTERDAY, YOU  
ATE THREE MOCHI  
AT THE KOTOMORI  
TEAHOUSE  
NEAR KAMO  
RIVER

"OKITA  
SOUJI

IT  
BECAME  
TOO  
TROUBLE  
-SOME

AS A  
SAMURAI,  
I'LL END UP  
HAVING TO  
HAVE TO CUT  
PEOPLE  
DOWN



AFTER THAT,  
YOU ALMOST  
FELL DOWN  
AT  
SANNENZAKA"



YESTERDAY,  
AFTER  
PATROLLING THE  
CITY, YOU HAD  
DANGO AND TEA  
AT KIYOMIZU  
TEMPLE

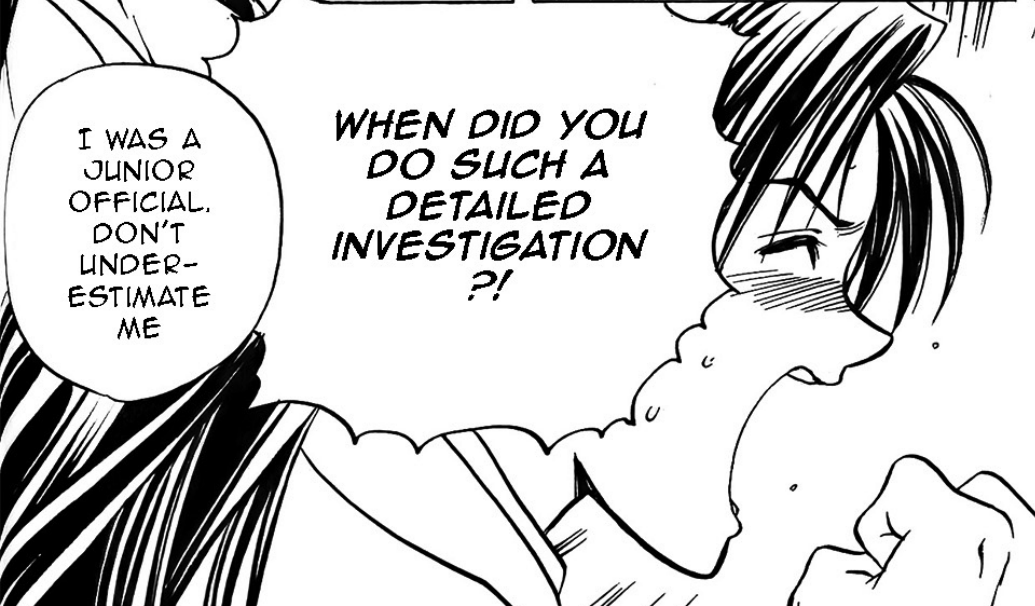


AND SPENT  
THE  
AFTERNOON  
PLAYING  
HOPSCOTCH  
WITH  
CHILDREN

YOU TOOK  
THE GAME  
TOO  
SERIOUSLY  
AND  
DEFEATED  
THEM

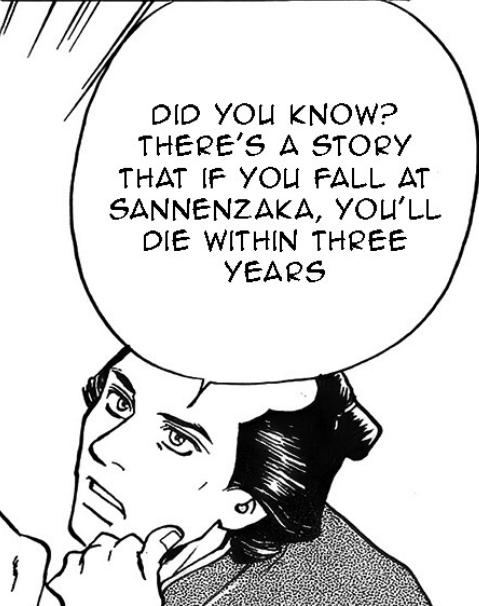
YOU'RE A  
REGULAR  
CUSTOMER AND  
YOU WERE GLAD  
TO RECEIVE  
EXTRA PICKLES

AND GOT  
SCOLDED BY  
VICE-  
COMMANDER  
HIJIKATA



I WAS A  
JUNIOR  
OFFICIAL.  
DON'T  
UNDER-  
ESTIMATE  
ME

WHEN DID YOU  
DO SUCH A  
DETAILED  
INVESTIGATION  
?!




DID YOU KNOW?  
THERE'S A STORY  
THAT IF YOU FALL AT  
SANNENZAKA, YOU'LL  
DIE WITHIN THREE  
YEARS



I'M  
FALLING  
MORE AND  
MORE IN  
LOVE

THAT  
INFORMATION-  
GATHERING  
ABILITY



THAT'S THE  
BEST WAY TO  
WIN AGAINST  
YOUR  
OPPONENT

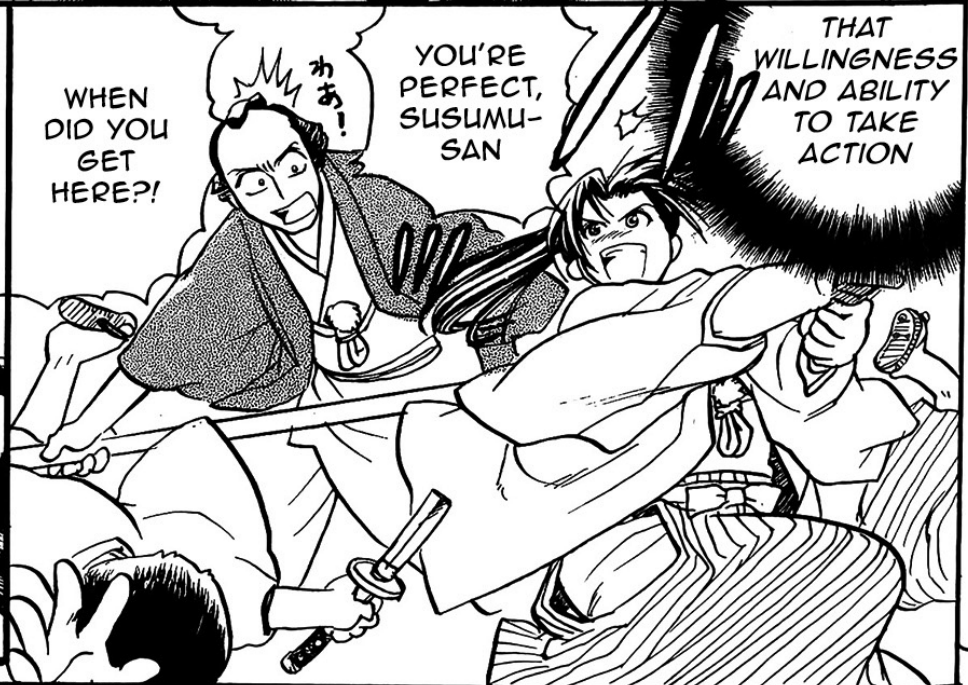
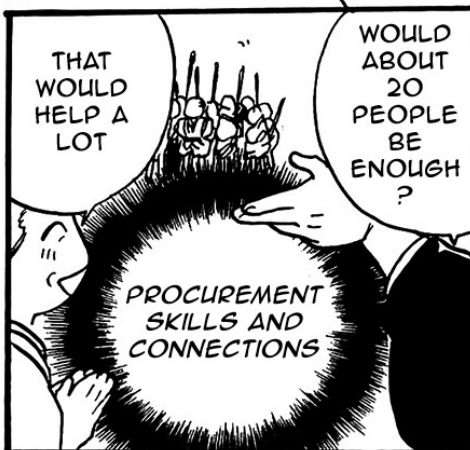
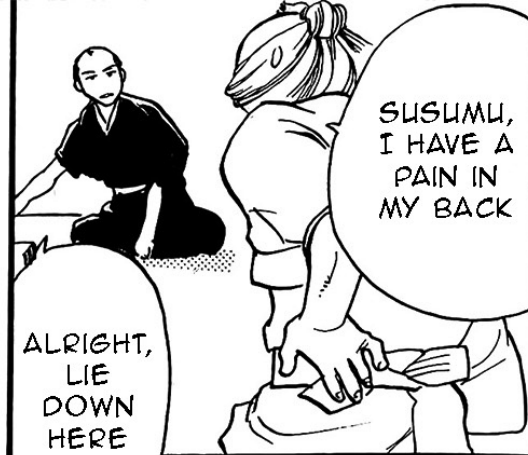
IF  
SOMEONE  
PROBES  
ME,

I PROBE  
THEM  
BACK  
EVEN  
MORE



AFTER  
LEARNING  
ABOUT  
THIS...



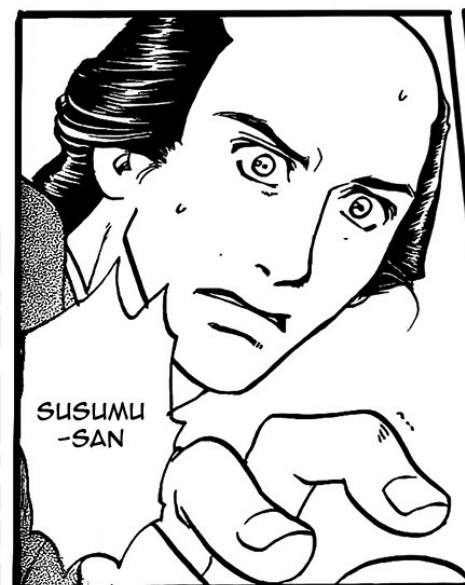




AAA  
RGH!



WHAT  
COULD A  
COMMONER  
DO WITH A  
STICK?

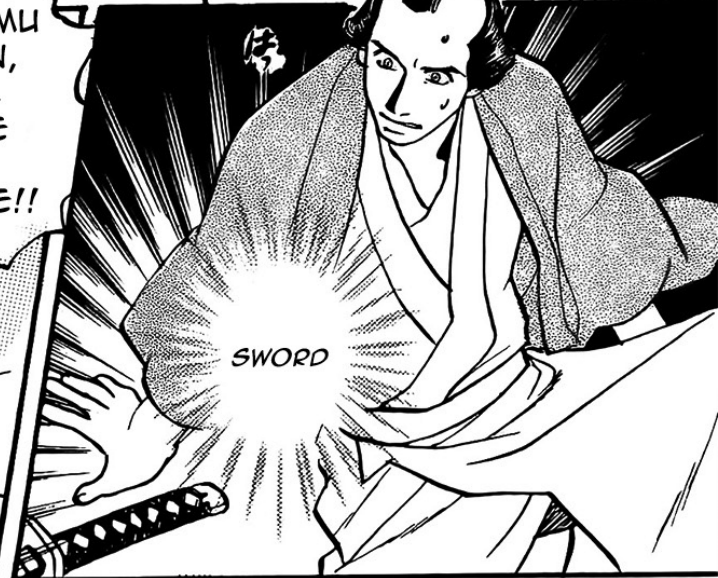


SUSUMU  
-SAN

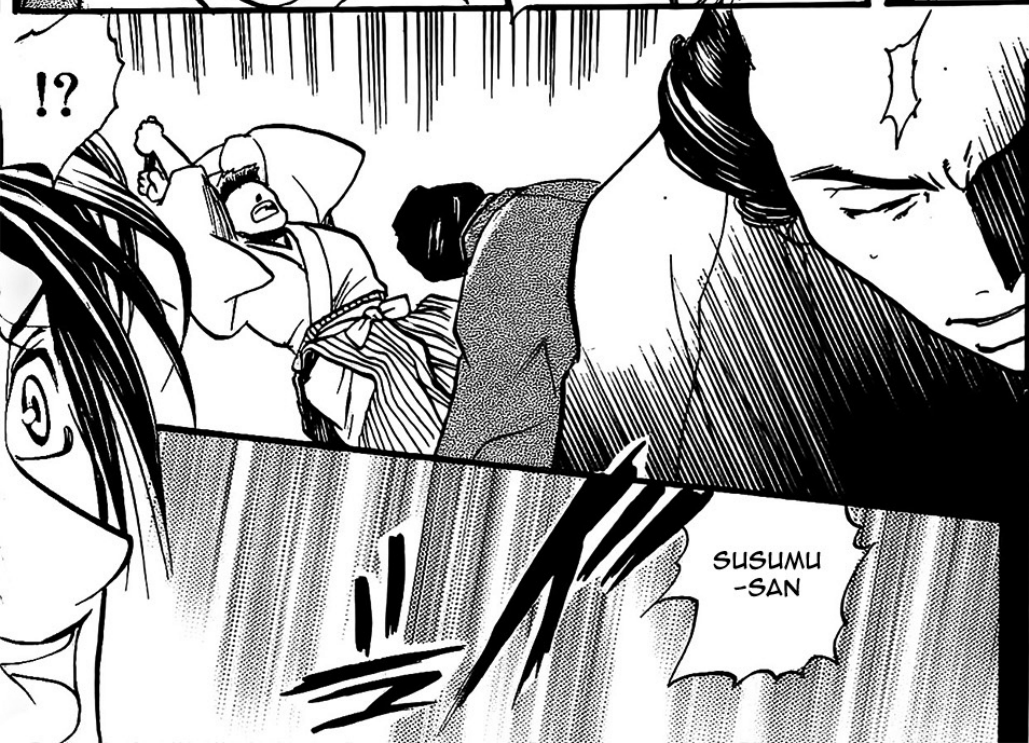


SUSUMU  
-SAN,  
I'LL  
TAKE  
THE  
BLAME!!

USE  
THAT  
SWORD  
!!



SWORD



!?

SUSUMU  
-SAN



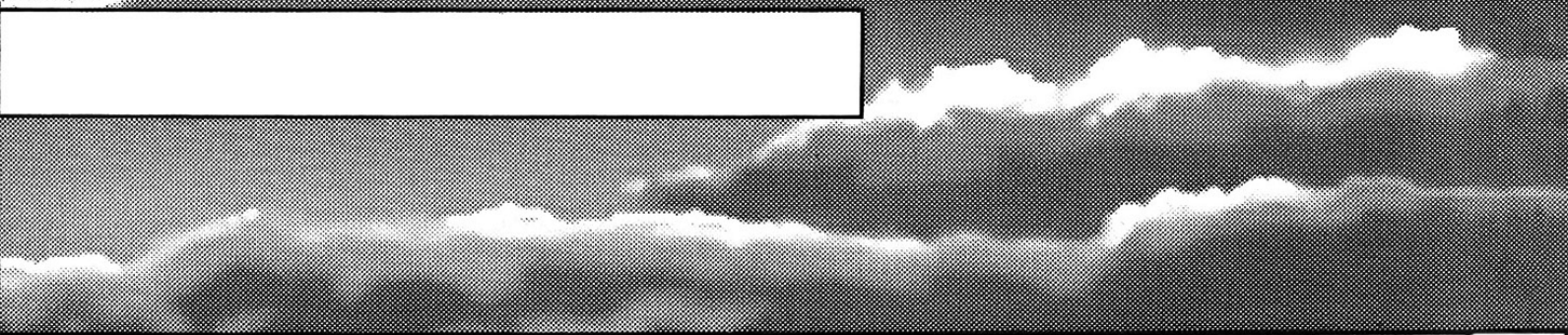
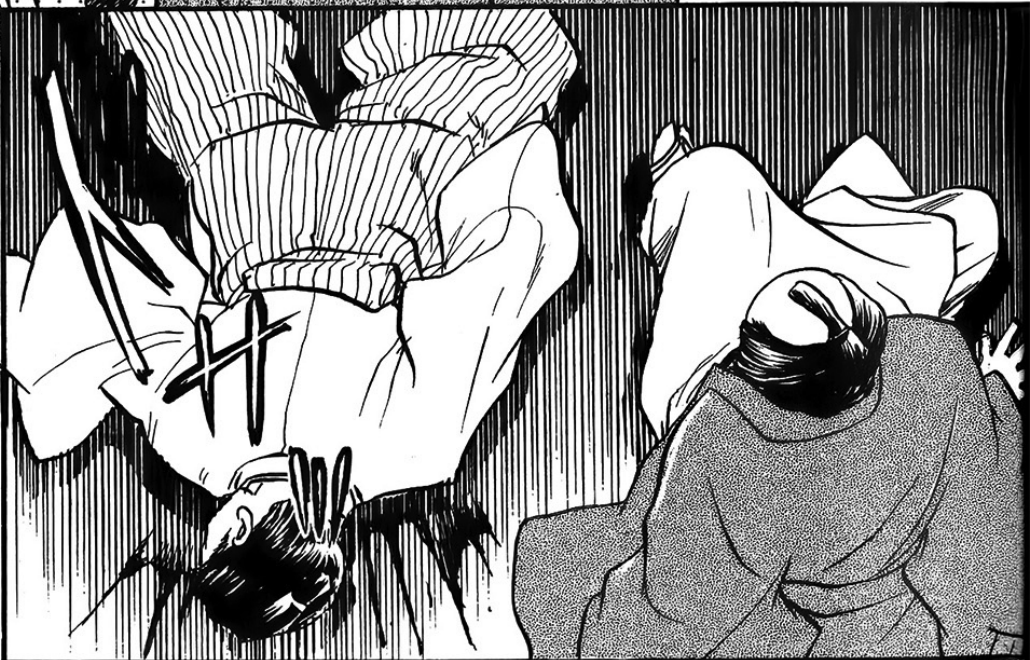
HURRY







!!  
!!



ARE YOU  
OKAY?

IT'S  
ABOUT  
TO RAIN

...THE  
WEATHER'S  
NOT  
GOOD



ONCE  
YOU'VE  
MADE UP  
YOUR  
MIND--

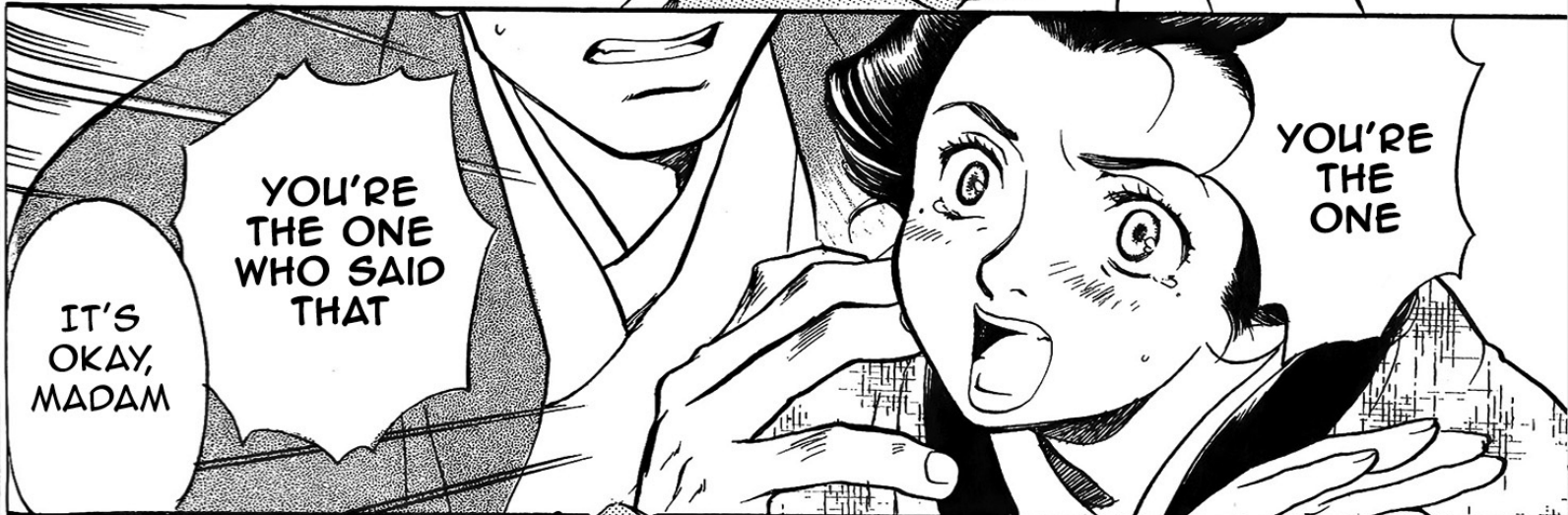
THAT'S  
RIGHT

...KILLING  
AND  
GETTING  
KILLED...?

I'M  
PREP-  
ARED  
FOR  
THAT!



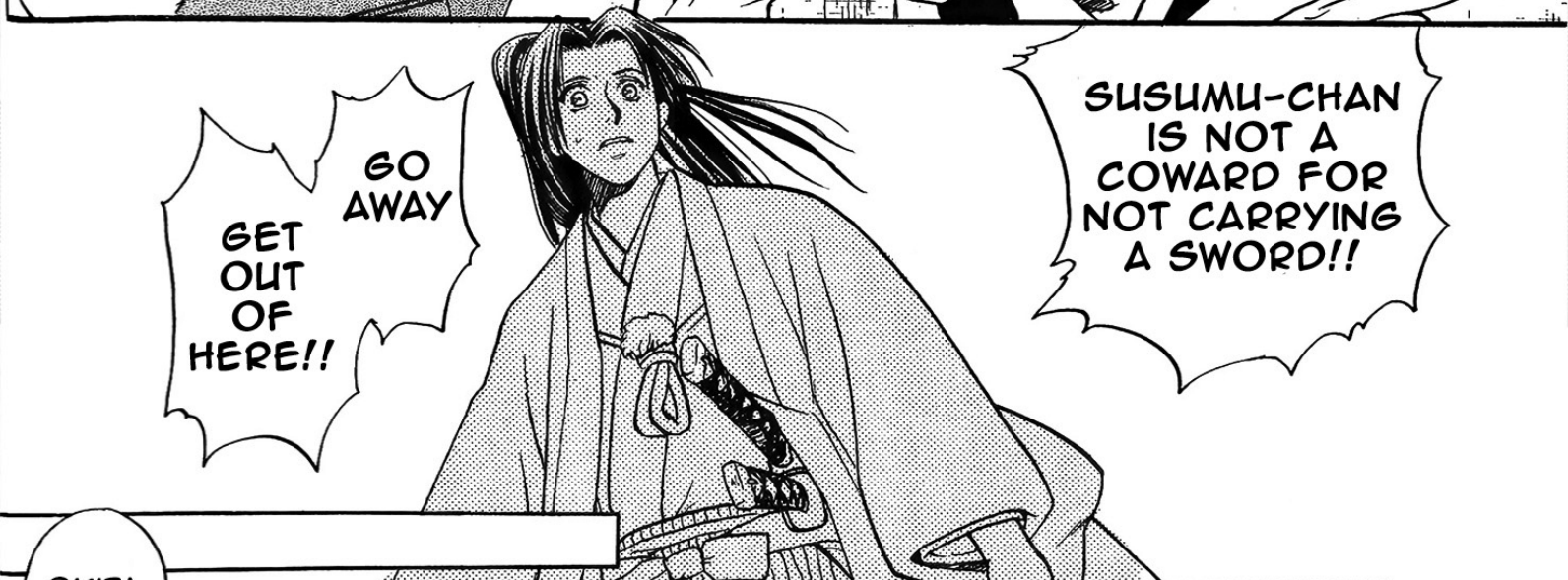
...  
EH  
?



YOU'RE  
THE ONE  
WHO SAID  
THAT

IT'S  
OKAY,  
MADAM

YOU'RE  
THE  
ONE



GET  
OUT  
OF  
HERE!!

GO  
AWAY

SUSUMI-CHAN  
IS NOT A  
COWARD FOR  
NOT CARRYING  
A SWORD!!

OKITA  
-KUN



WEST  
OF  
OSAKA

HE CUT  
DOWN  
HIS  
YOUNGER  
SISTER  
BY  
MISTAKE

I FOUND OUT  
AFTERWARDS  
THAT,  
BEFORE HE  
LEFT HIS  
POSITION AS  
A JUNIOR  
OFFICIAL...

AH,  
THAT'S  
...

YOU  
ASKED  
ME FOR  
INFORMA-  
TION  
ABOUT  
YAMAZAKI  
SUSUMU

OH,  
INSPECT-  
OR  
SHIMADA-  
SAN  
You're in  
Osaka?

BRING  
YAMAZAKI  
AND THE  
OTHERS  
HERE

WE  
HAVE  
TROU-  
BLE

...  
EH?

MOM

NO!  
MITSU!!  
FATHER!!

MY  
SUBORD-  
INATES  
HAVE  
SCORES  
TO  
SETTLE  
WITH  
YOU

COME  
QUICK  
OR I'LL  
SET THIS  
PLACE  
ON FIRE

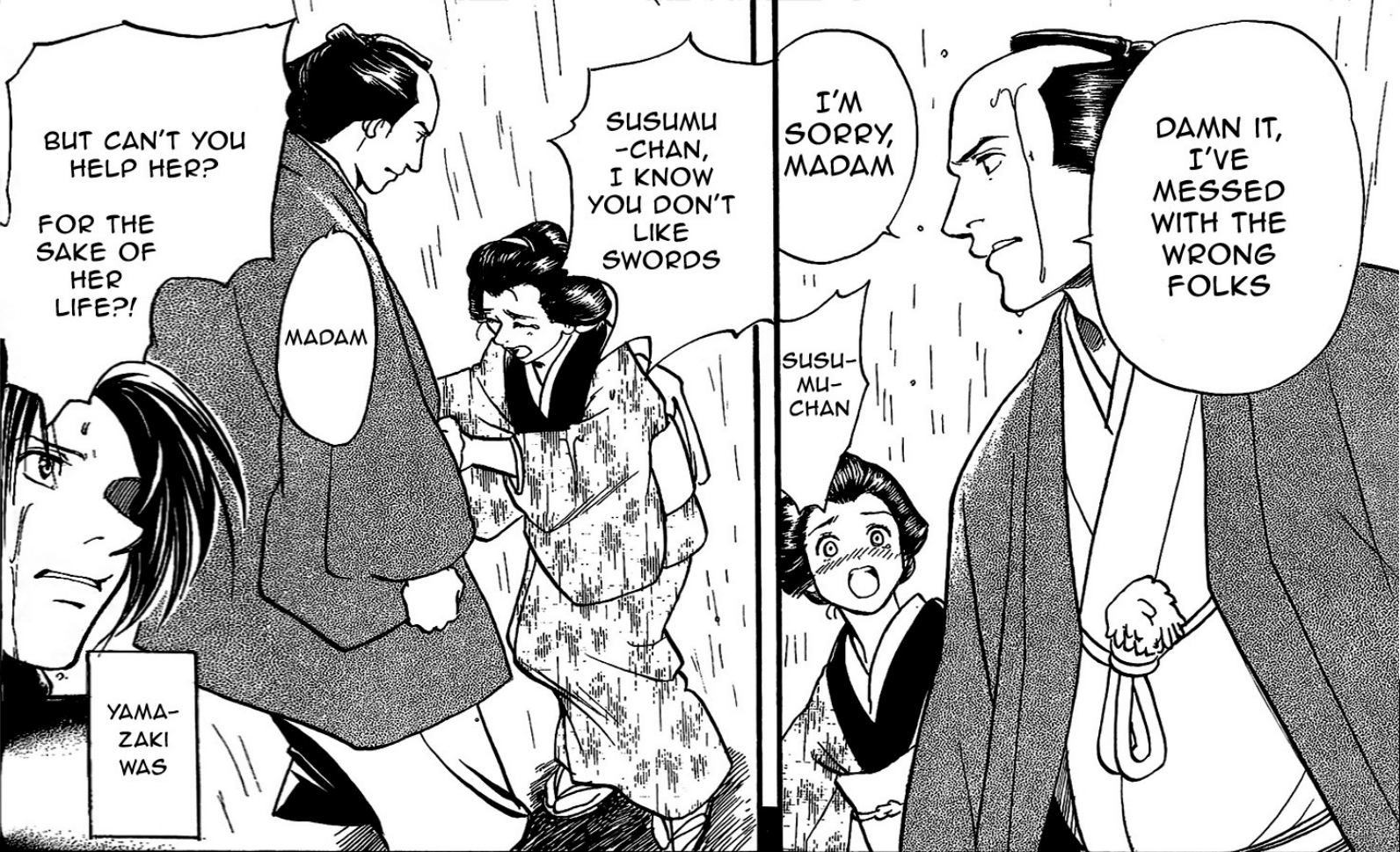
KILL ALL THE  
CHILDREN  
AND  
ELDERLY

YOU  
CAME BY  
YOURSELF  
?

SORRY,  
I'M  
TRYING TO  
CALL  
MORE  
PEOPLE  
NOW

YOU'RE  
LATE,  
SHINSEN-  
GUMI

SUSUMU  
-SAN



BUT CAN'T YOU  
HELP HER?

FOR THE  
SAKE OF  
HER  
LIFE?!

MADAM

SUSUMU  
-CHAN,  
I KNOW  
YOU DON'T  
LIKE  
SWORDS

I'M  
SORRY,  
MADAM

DAMN IT,  
I'VE  
MESSED  
WITH THE  
WRONG  
FOLKS

SUSU-  
MU-  
CHAN

YAMA-  
ZAKI  
WAS



ONE AFTER  
ANOTHER, THE  
BANDITS WHO  
SLASHED AT HIM  
IN THE COLD  
RAIN WERE  
KILLED OFF

HE WAS ATTACKED  
IN HIS SLEEP  
WHEN HE WAS  
STAYING AT HIS  
FAMILY HOME  
BECAUSE  
A CERTAIN GANG  
HAD A GRUDGE  
AGAINST HIM

WHEN HE WAS  
A JUNIOR  
OFFICIAL, HE  
DID HIS JOB  
WELL, BUT

IN  
THE  
END

HE STABBED  
AT A  
PRESENCE  
HIDDEN IN  
THE  
SHADOWS  
UNDER THE  
EAVES

IT  
WAS





THE  
MAGISTRATE'S  
OFFICE AND THE  
TOWNSPEOPLE  
COVERED FOR  
HIM, SAYING HE  
DID WHAT HE  
HAD TO DO

BUT

I'M...



IT WAS HIS  
SISTER WHO  
HAD RUN  
AWAY AND  
WAS HIDING  
AT HOME



I'LL  
NEVER  
FORGET  
ANY OF  
IT.

AND THE FEELING  
OF WIPING OFF  
MY SISTER'S  
BLOOD FROM MY  
SWORD

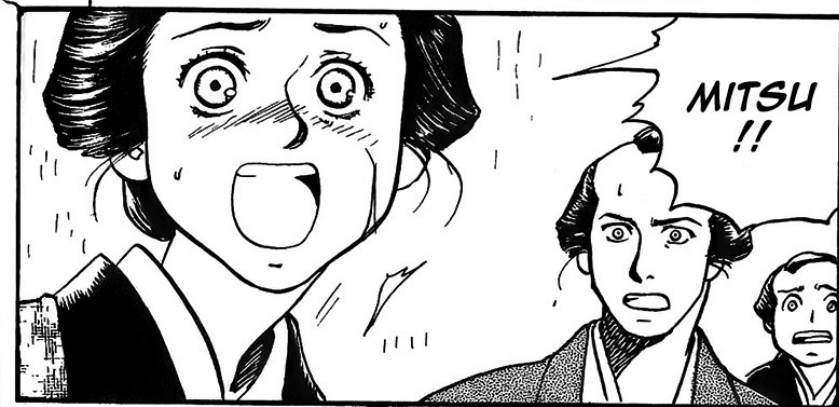
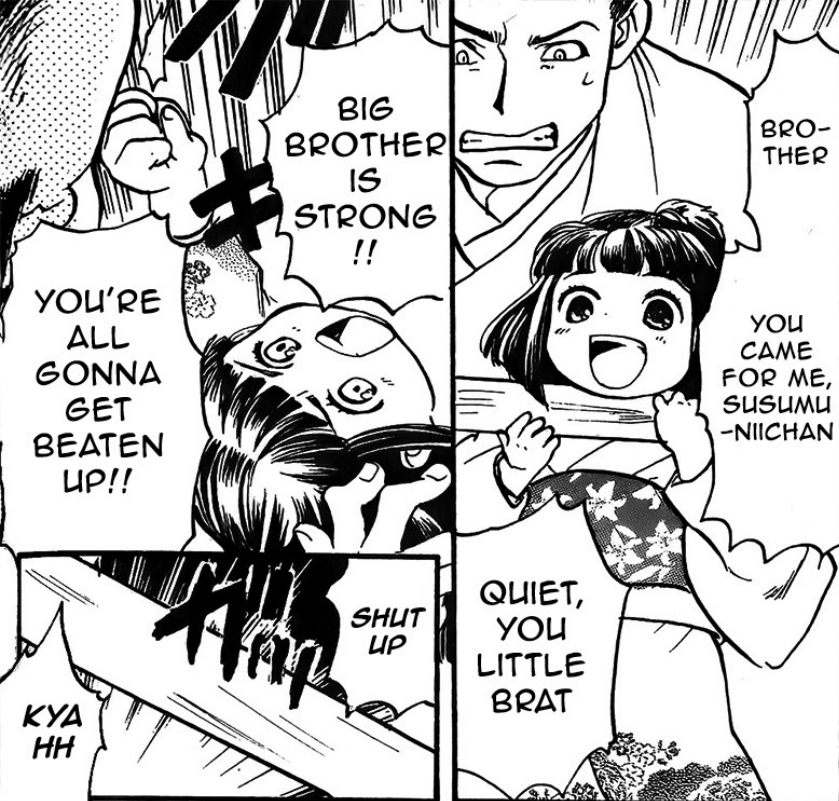
IN THESE  
HANDS...

I'LL NEVER  
FORGET THE  
FEELING OF  
HER LITTLE  
BODY  
GETTING  
COLDER AND  
COLDER



SO WHEN  
I HOLD A  
SWORD,  
THAT  
...

Brother



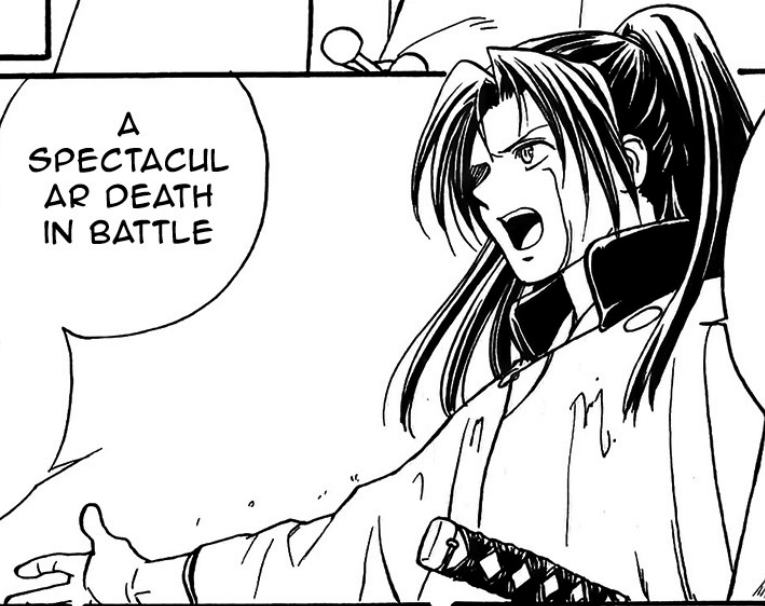




TEN MEN  
HAVE  
DRAWN  
THEIR  
SWORDS  
AGAINST  
YOU

I DON'T  
CARE IF YOU  
HATE ME,  
BUT I'M  
GOING TO  
SAY IT

WE'RE  
JUST  
TWO  
PEOPLE



A  
SPECTACUL  
AR DEATH  
IN BATTLE

YOU MIGHT FEEL  
GOOD ABOUT  
THAT, BUT

GOING IN  
THERE  
WITHOUT A  
SWORD  
MEANS  
GOING TO  
YOUR DEATH



YOUR SISTER  
WILL THINK YOU  
DIED  
MEANINGLESSLY  
TOO



IF NO ONE  
IS SAVED IN  
THE END...



IF NO  
ONE  
COULD  
PROTECT  
THEM



AND THE  
SAME  
WORDS  
"HELP ME"



IRONIC,  
ISN'T IT?

THE COLD  
RAIN IS THE  
SAME AS  
THAT NIGHT



IF I FAIL  
THIS TIME



I WON'T BE  
ABLE TO FACE  
MY SISTER AND  
MITSU



OKITA  
-SAN



CAN I  
BORROW  
YOUR  
WAKIZASHI?

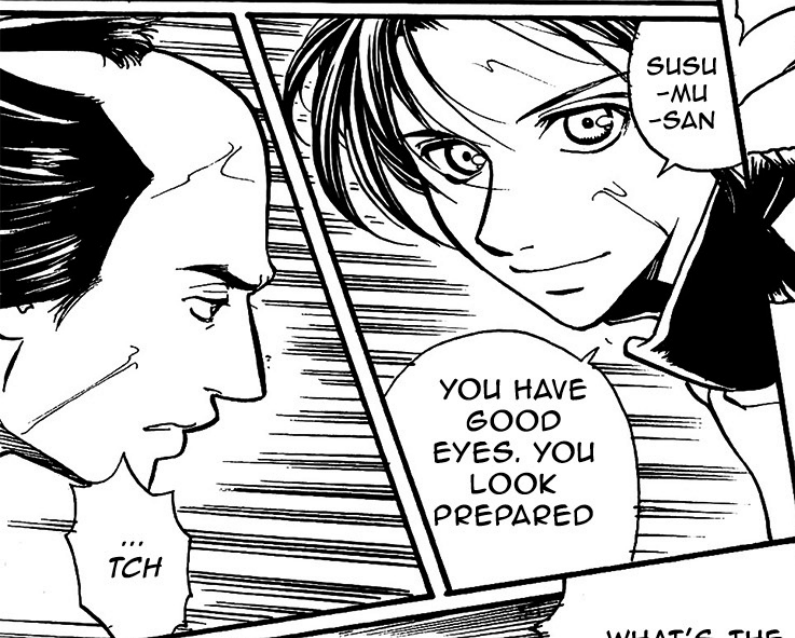




WELL,  
NO  
MORE  
HOLDING  
BACK

NOT THE  
SMALL  
ONE, THE  
BIG  
ONE!!

YES  
!!



SUSU  
-MU  
-SAN

YOU HAVE  
GOOD  
EYES. YOU  
LOOK  
PREPARED

...  
TCH

WHAT'S THE  
POINT OF  
HAVING GOOD  
EYES IF  
YOU'RE GOING  
TO KILL?



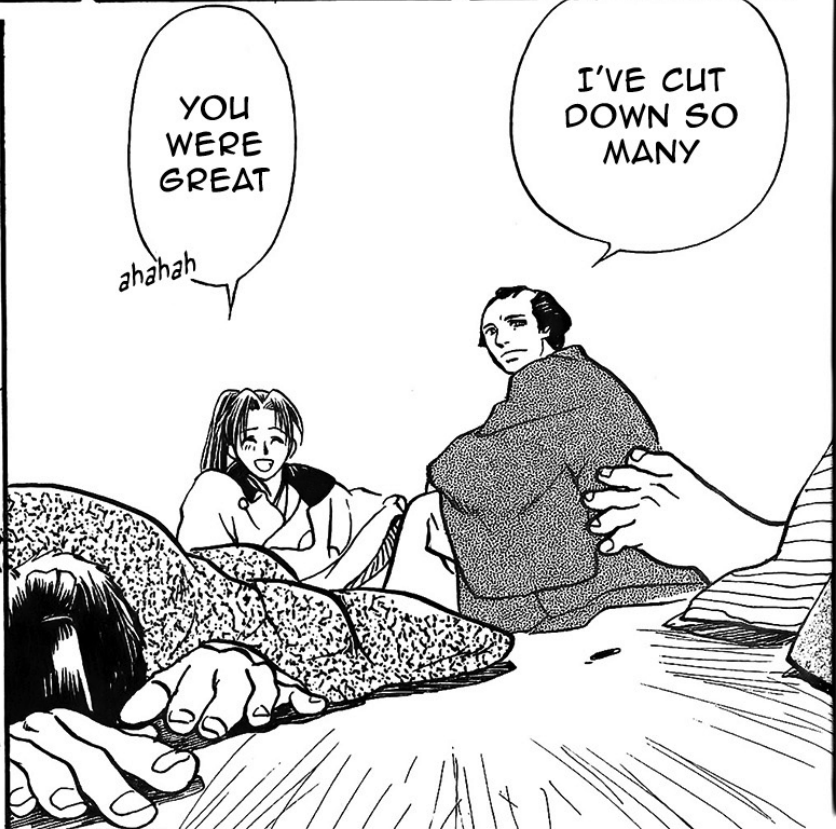
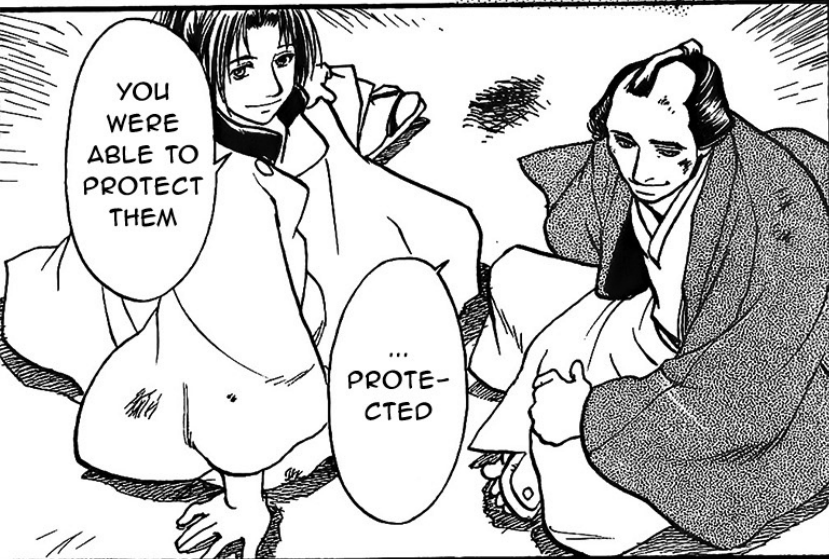
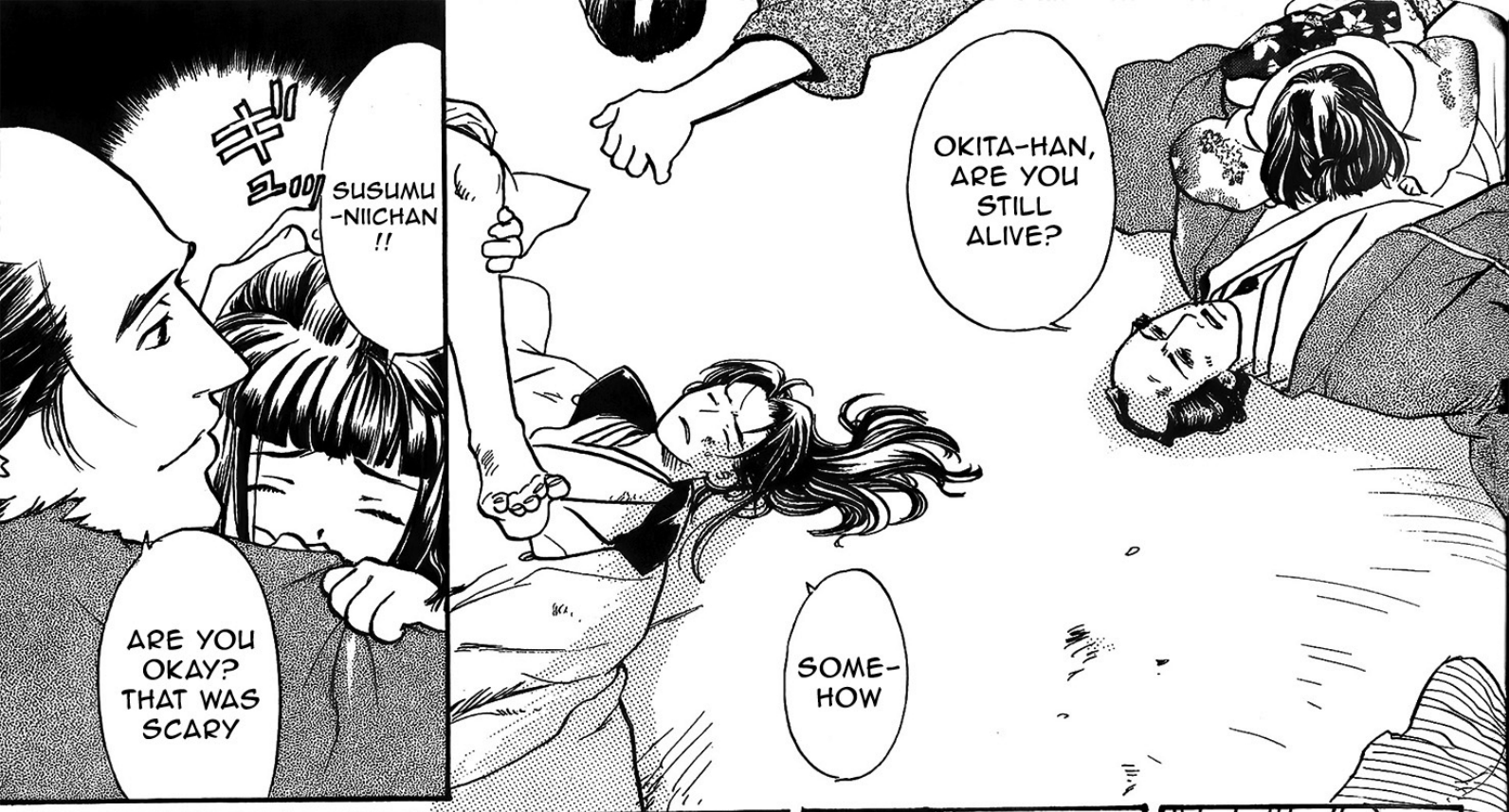
IT MUST BE  
DONE. ANYONE  
WOULD FEEL THE  
SAME WAY

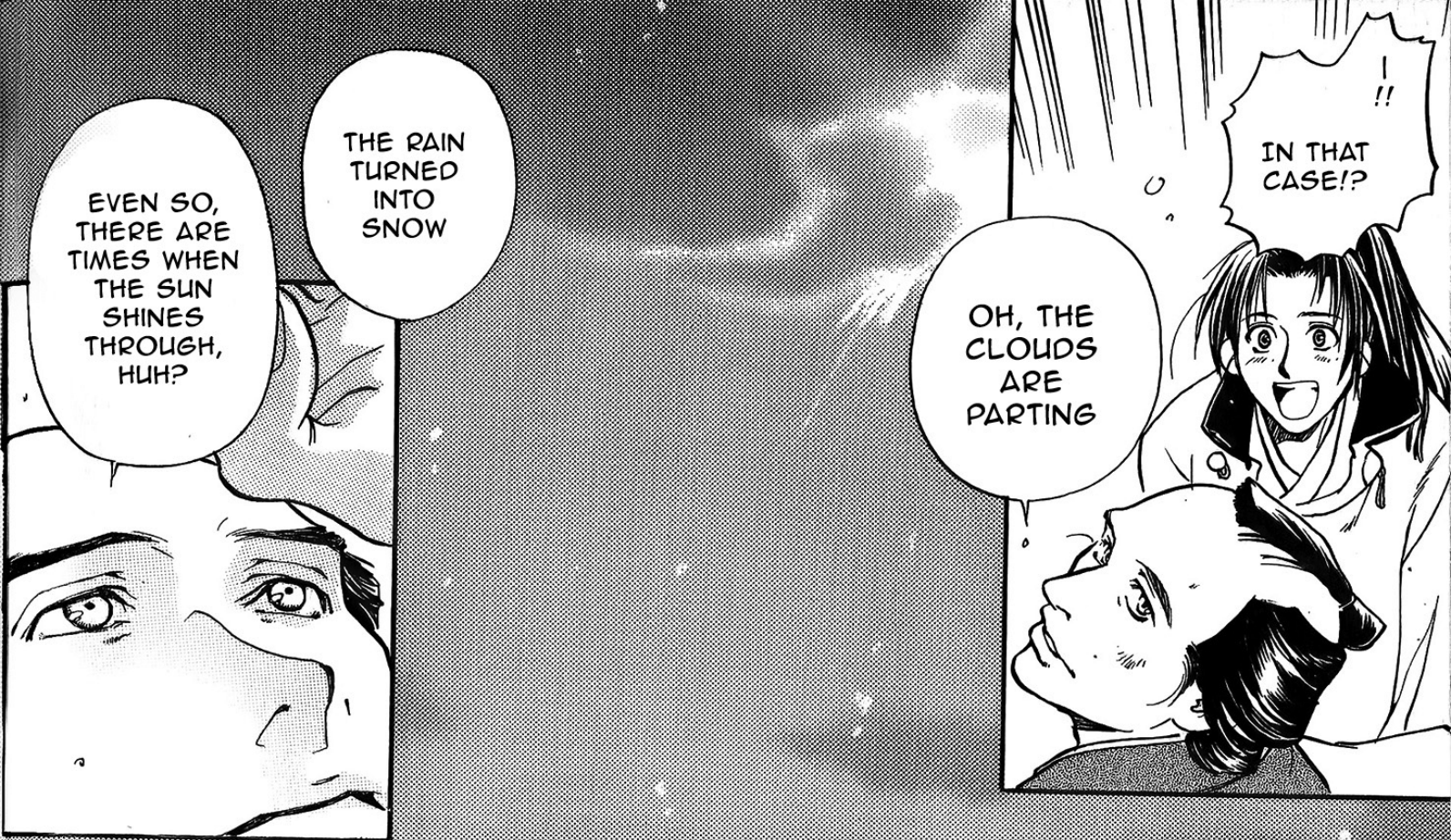
IF IT'S UP TO ME,  
I'LL DO IT

I'LL TAKE  
UP THE  
SWORD







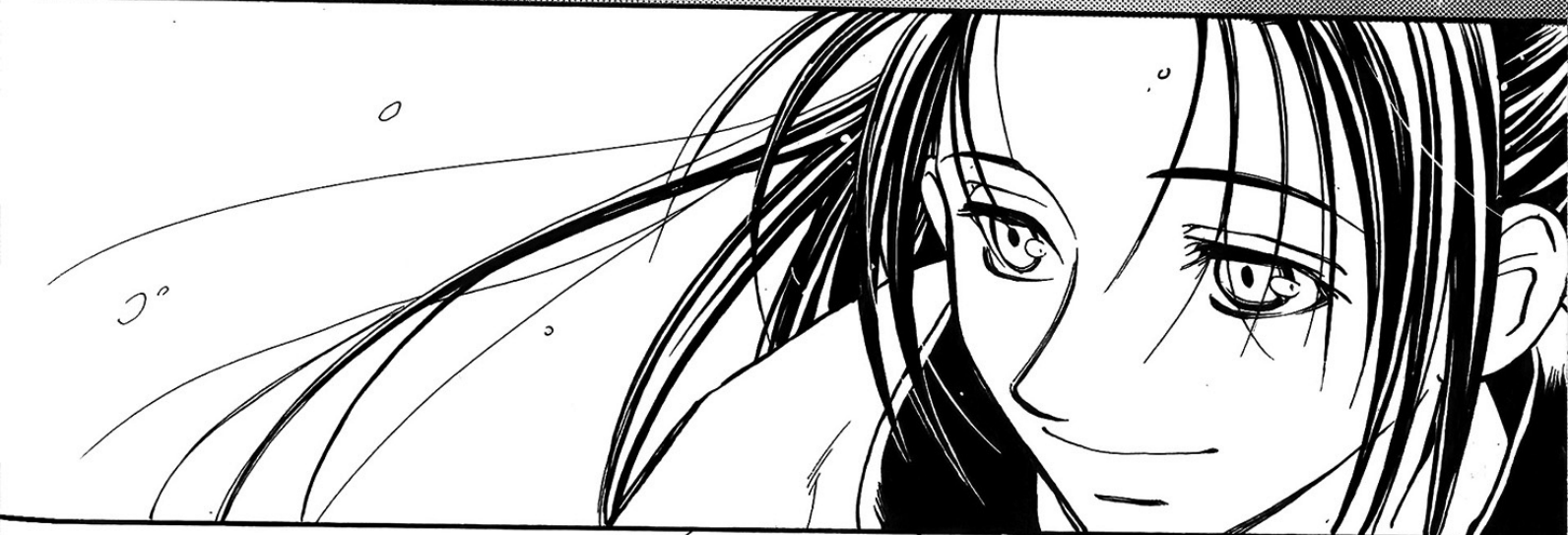


EVEN SO,  
THERE ARE  
TIMES WHEN  
THE SUN  
SHINES  
THROUGH,  
HUH?

THE RAIN  
TURNED  
INTO  
SNOW

OH, THE  
CLOUDS  
ARE  
PARTING

!!  
IN THAT  
CASE!?



ONCE YOU'VE  
CUT IT, THE  
REST WILL  
BE SUNNY





# 新選組 沖田総司

Shinsengumi  
Okita Souji

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煌の残像

Shining Afterimage (Kirameki no Zanzo)  
from ピチコミックス Pichi Comics

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Chapter 3

雲の切れ間に

Between the Clouds

by 九条友淀 Kujo Tomoyodo

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